

HABITAT CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

for the Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

A **regular meeting** of the Habitat Conservation Advisory Committee (HCAC) was held in the Washington City Council Chambers on **November 24, 2015**.

Committee members present were:

Chris Blake, Chairman	Environmental Organization
Chris Hart, Vice Chairman	Local Development
Larry Crist	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Henry Maddux	Utah Dept. of Natural Resources (UDNR)
Dawna Ferris-Rowley	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Marc Mortensen	Citizen-at-Large
John Bramall	Mayors Association
Bob Sandberg	HCP Administrator

Also present were:

Lacey McIntyre	Washington County HCP – Recorder
Cameron Rognan	Technical Committee (HCP)
Kristen Comella	Technical Committee (SCSP)
Ann McLuckie	Technical Committee (DWR)
Alan Gardner	Washington County Commissioner
Eric Clarke	Washington County Deputy Attorney
Brian Tritle	BLM St. George Field Office
Gary Webster	Congressman Stewart's Office
Julie Applegate	St. George News
Susan Crook	Citizen's for Dixie's Future
Lisa Rutherford	Citizen

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chris Blake called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. noting that a quorum was present.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda is a means of expediting routine matters which come before the committee for approval. The consent portion of the agenda is approved by one (1) non-debatable motion. If any member wishes to remove an item from the consent portion of the agenda, then that item becomes the first order of business on the regular agenda.

- a. **Approval of Agenda**
- b. **Review and Approve Regular Meeting Minutes**
 1. **September 22, 2015**
- c. **Next Meeting Date**
 1. **December 22, 2015**

The committee cancelled the December meeting and plans to hold the next meeting on January 26, 2016.

MOTION by Chris Hart to approve the amended Consent Agenda.

Seconded by John Bramall.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

a. Chris Blake mentioned he has a conflict of interest with agenda item 6-e-1 due to his position with the Virgin River Land Preservation Association.

4. PRESENTATIONS

a. BLM Resource Management Plan (RMP) Presentation by Washington County

Deputy County Attorney Eric Clarke presented exhibit 4-a-1, a PowerPoint presentation outlining County concerns over the draft Red Cliffs NCA Resource Management Plan. The presentation includes an overview of what RMP alternatives A, B, C, and D contain in regards to land acquisition language as well as a discussion on utility development protocols. It also briefly discusses BLM coordination with Washington County as well as the BLM Northern Corridor alternatives. Overall, the BLM is working to address Washington County's concerns and the county is optimistic that the final RMP will follow the intent of the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act (OPLMA) and acknowledge the ongoing cooperation between the BLM and Washington County in managing the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve and Red Cliffs NCA.

5. UTILITY AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

a. None

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Update on land acquisition efforts – Bob/Dawna

Bob reported the County worked with BLM to put out a request for bids on an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Long Valley Exchange proposal. There were six proposals received, and the County has selected an apparent low bidder, SWCA. There is ongoing work with the County Attorney's office to put together a contract to take to the County Commission meeting. Once that contract is in place work can begin on the EA to move the Long Valley exchange forward.

b. Update on permit renewal – Larry/Bob

Larry mentioned state contractor Mark Capone is in the process of finalizing the status review. Larry will try harder to get a hold of Mr. Capone and hopes he can provide a better update soon.

c. Consideration of HCP/UDWR cooperative agreement and statements of work

Bob mentioned the committee had exhibit 6-c-1 in their possession which is a 2016 Cooperative Agreement and Scopes of Work between Washington County and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. This agreement includes the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher nest survey as well as Desert Tortoise monitoring. Mayor Hart asked if the language is essentially the same as last year. Bob answered yes, the language and cost is essentially the same as 2015 and has been included in the previously approved 2016 budget.

MOTION by John Bramall to adopt the 2016 Cooperative Agreement and Scopes of Work between Washington County and The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.
Seconded by Chris Hart.
Discussion: None.
Vote was taken: All voted aye.
Motion passed.

d. Review of 3rd quarter 2015 report

Bob asked the committee if they had any questions or concerns regarding exhibit 6-d-1, the HCP 3rd quarter 2015 report. Henry questioned what the citations from the Sheriff's office include. Bob answered he could include the citation log with the reports so the committee can see what people are being cited for. Bob mentioned there is a quarterly law enforcement meeting where those issues are discussed among the different entities. The committee agreed it would be interesting to see notes on damage being done within the Reserve either quarterly or annually.

MOTION by John Bramall to approve the 3rd quarter 2015 report.
Seconded by Marc Mortensen.
Discussion: None.
Vote was taken: All voted aye.
Motion passed.

e. Consideration of proposal to acquire property at Confluence Park

Chris Blake discussed parties to be asked in order to fund the proposal to acquire additional property at Confluence Park. Committee members shared their ideas and agreed funding should be found and this acquisition should take place.

MOTION by John Bramall to allow the HCP to move forward with finding funding for the acquisition of property at Confluence Park.
Seconded by Chris Hart.
Discussion: None.
Vote was taken: All voted aye.
Motion passed.

f. Technical Committee Report – Kristen Comella

Kristen Comella presented the Technical Committee Report, exhibit 6-f-1. At the previous TC meeting, committee members took a field trip to the future site of Sentierre. They first discussed a possible new trail in the area. Snow Canyon needs to go out and look at all possibilities before deciding on that issue. Secondly, they discussed plans for a containment basin located entirely on Sentierre property that will include an 18 inch wall with an additional 18 inches of fencing on top to encourage use of designated trails and to prevent tortoises from leaving the Reserve boundaries in the event of sediment build up. Ultimately, the Technical Committee approved their preliminary design for the containment basin.

g. Consideration of 2016 HCAC meeting dates

Exhibit 6-g-1 contains a list of 2016 meeting dates for the HCAC.

MOTION by Marc Mortensen to accept the 2016 HCAC meeting dates as presented.
Seconded by Chris Hart.
Discussion: None.
Vote was taken: All voted aye.
Motion passed.

h. HCP Administrator's Report - Bob

1. Revenues and expenditures report

Bob referred to Exhibit 6-h-1, the HCP revenue and expenditures report as of October 31, 2015. He pointed out the impact fees for 3rd quarter from St. George City and Washington City have not come in as of this report.

MOTION by John Bramall to accept the revenues and expenditures report.
Seconded by Chris Hart.
Discussion: None.
Vote was taken: All voted aye.
Motion passed.

2. ARS study plots and field trip

Bob mentioned the committee could have a field trip to the ARS study plots in February. He believes, by then, there should be some vegetation growing. The committee will plan on a field trip February 23rd. The time will be decided at a later date.

3. Status of UNLV Coop

Bob updated the committee on the UNLV cooperative agreement to fund the previously discussed habitat restoration project. The County Commission approved the cooperative agreement to provide the funds. Now, the HCP is waiting on the appropriate UNLV signature to transfer the \$20,000 for the project.

4. St. George City water well

Bob mentioned St. George City needs to get into the water well on the west side of Turkey Farm Road. The HCP is working with them on the refurbishment of that water well.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

This item is reserved for items not listed on this agenda. No action may be taken on a matter raised under this agenda item (three minutes per person).

a. Susan Crook thanked the County and BLM for working together on the issues that have come up in the RMP. She also mentioned the Citizen's for Dixie's Future wilderness stewards are getting ready to begin monitoring for invasive species so the group is willing to help where needed.

b. Lisa Rutherford commented on the good job the BLM has done on the RMP.

8. MEMBER REPORTS & REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a. John Bramall mentioned the Grandpa's Pond Park in Hurricane is almost finished.

b. Chris Hart would like to look at an alignment for the Northern transportation route. Another item to be discussed is the mitigation question from the previous HCAC meetings that the Attorney's office is looking into.

c. Larry Crist mentioned the deadline for nontraditional Section 6 proposals is the end of February.

9. ADJOURN

MOTION by John Bramall to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded by Marc Mortensen.

Discussion: None.

Vote was taken: All voted aye.

Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.
Minutes prepared by Lacey McIntyre.